

**VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

A. The Community Relations Commission of the Village of Homewood encourages and promotes community pride, involvement, and diversity in its efforts to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Homewood. The Community Relations Commission plans, volunteers and represents the Village of Homewood at events. The Committee fosters growth and unity within the community. The Village has ten major events throughout the year and co-sponsors two events.

B.

<i>MEMBERSHIP:</i>	<i>Original Appointment</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>CRC Attendance</i>
Phil Kosanovich, Chair	06/12/07	08/31/16	7/11
Heather Kerstan	05/28/13	08/31/16	6/11
Anthony Brown	09/25/07	08/31/16	11/11
Lauren Crispe-Freeman	07/14/09	08/31/15	1/11 rolled off
Lauren Roman	2/12/13	08/31/15	6/11
Kelly Feminella	09/25/07	08/31/17	1/11 rolled off
Thomas Hamilton	10/25/11	08/31/17	5/11
Kathi Knight	10/28/08	08/31/17	3/11
Nancy Spaniak	09/13/11	08/31/17	7/11
Clifford Cressey	4/10/12	08/31/16	11/11
Aredell Roundtree II	09/24/12	8/31/15	7/11
Shannon Olison	08/25/15		3/05
Carlyn Coleman	04/14/15		4/08

Non-voting Commissioners:

Trustee Karen Washington, Village Board Liaison
Allisa Opyd, Village Staff Liaison
Anna deVries, Village Staff Liaison

C. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: In the calendar year 2015, Community Relations Commission meetings were held in January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and two dates in November.

D. COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS | SPECIAL EVENTS:

Chocolate Fest | Saturday, February 21

Commissioners hosted the Annual Chocolate Fest held at the Park District Auditorium. The fest showcased local and national chocolatiers selling their popular chocolate confections. The event featured live demonstrations from professional dessert chef, Patricia Ledsham of Bakewell. 12 Chocolate vendors and 4 not-for-profits participated. 10 recipes were entered in the bake-off contest from local service groups and Village advisory groups. This was the first year we invited restaurants to join in the Bake-Off. We had 4 professionals in the competition. The beneficiary of the bake-off donations was the Cancer Support Center. This event brought event participants into the downtown shopping area. Approximately 1200 attended the event.

The event received positive media coverage, information listed below, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau, Village communication channels: cable channel, website, social media, e-Newswire, and Village Key.

PRINT

Uptown Magazine Darian Logan to include in Feb print edition of magazine as well as online calendar of events
Southtown Star Including in debut of new Entertainment Section, Feb. 6 Preview story on Feb. 20

WEB

Homewood Chronicle Eric Crump posted Jan. 8
<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2015/jan/08/homewood-will-be-sweet-sweets-13th-annual-chocolate-festival-feb-16>

Homewood Patch Lauren T posted on Jan. 11
<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/homewood-goes-sweet-sweets-chocolate-festival-0>

TribLocal.com Brava submitted and requested it to be featured – posted Jan. 15
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/orland-park-homer-glen/community/chi-ugc-article-home-sweet-homewood-hosted-13th-chocolate-f-2015-01-15-story.html>

MommyNearest.com Sarah-Grace Sweeney included in top 10 things to do in Chicago in Feb. story
<http://www.mommynearest.com/articles/10-best-things-to-do-in-chicago-this-february>

TV

WGN-TV Patricia did live in-studio cooking demo on Feb. 20 for the mid-day lunch break at 12:50
<http://wgntv.com/2015/02/20/lunchbreak-bakewell-bakerys-patricia-ledsham-makes-tiffin/>

WLS-TV Allisa Opyd and Laurie Norris to do live in-studio demo/interview on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 6:50 AM
Windy City Live mention from Chicago Parent on Thursday, Jan. 29
<http://windycitylive.com/episodes/Must-Do-This-Month---Family-Events/9545233>

Block Party Program | The Commission promoted the Block Party program through the e-Newswire, Village Key, and cable channel. The village website has instructions to assist an easy way to schedule and plan a party. A total of 33 block parties were held throughout Homewood neighborhoods. The Commission promoted Block Parties in non-traditional methods as well. The Community Relation Commission participated in the July 4th parade with a Block Party theme parade float. Another opportunity to promote the Block Party program was having a Homewood Village Block Party.

Homewood Art & Garden Street Fair | June 12 and 13 | 10:00AM to 9:00 PM

The Commissioners assisted with the promotion of the event, volunteered with set up and activities. The event was co-sponsored with the Downtown Homewood Business Association. Due to construction on Martin Avenue, the event was moved to Hickory Road, between Dixie Highway and Harwood. Because of the negative feedback received in 2014 for closing the event too early, we extended the time and programming. The two day event was filled with unique art, community art and live entertainment. The schedule of events:

Friday

11AM - Noon Ben's Bubble Show

Noon- 2:00PM Ralph's World (kid's performance)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Sunnyside Up and Kids Crafts

6:00 PM -9:00 PM Maggie Speaks

Saturday

10:00 AM -2:00 PM Chalk of the Town (community chalk art)

10:00 AM -2:00 PM Kids Crafts

11:00 AM –Noon Miss Jamie and the Farmhands (kid's performance)

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Matt Bailey

6:00PM -9:00 PM Ring of Music

Although on Friday the weather did not cooperate and we had to endure a full day of rain and cold temperatures, we did not cancel the event. Many fest goers enjoyed the entertainment of Ralph's World (acoustic performance), arts/crafts, and ending the day with Maggie Speak. Saturday was a better day, we added another element to the event; street "Chalk Art" with Nancy Pochis Banks. Ms. Banks and her team were able to replicate "Sunday in the Park, by George Surratt on the street on Martin Avenue. Chalk art was available for local artists and children alike to create their own street "chalk art" on Martin Avenue as well. Each artist worked with either a 4 x 4 space for \$10.00 or for children a 2 x 2 space for \$5. The cost was added to assist in covering the cost for the chalk. 2016 Art and Garden event, the costs will be re-evaluated for 2016. Due to evening storms, the event was closed at 8:00 PM.

The event received positive media coverage, information listed below, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau, Village communication channels: cable channel, website, social media, e-Newswire, and Village Key (cover story).

PRINT

Chicago Parent Included in Going Places for June 2015

Village of Homewood, Community Relations Commission | 2015 Annual Report



Chicago Tribune "Just Kidding" section to include with pics on 6/12
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/parenting/jk-15-things-to-do-0608-gallery-20150605-photogallery.html#lightbox=83718636&slide=2>

Daily Southtown Kelly White wrote a story - interviewed Allisa Opyd via email. Run date 6/3
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-homewood-street-fair-st-0604-20150603-story.html>

Andrea Denk wrote follow up story. Ran 6/15 <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-homewood-art-fair-st-0615-20150614-story.html>

TV

WFLD-TV Jake Hamilton canceled - to reschedule later in summer. Requested use of b-roll

WEB

ChicagoKids.com Sue Z including in Calendar of things to do

H-F Chronicle Eric Crump posted on May 12
<http://www.hfchronicle.com/article/2015/may/12/ralph-covert-brings-his-world-our-world>

Eric Crump posted another story June 6
<http://www.hfchronicle.com/article/2015/jun/05/homewoods-art-garden-fair-feature-science-tinkering-public-art-project>

Metromix Chicago Listed on site May 10
<http://chicago.metromix.com/events/mmxchi-downtown-homewood-art-and-garden-street-fair-event>

Included in Suburban Summer Fest listings:
<http://chicago.metromix.com/stories/3763-suburban-chicago-summer-festivals-2015>

The Patch Lauren Traut posted on May 6
<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/homewoods-art-and-garden-street-fair-takes-center-stage-june-12-0>

SpotlightOnLake Included it on May 18
<http://www.spotlightonlake.com/eventspot/homewood-celebrates-8th-annual-downtown-homewood-art-garden-street-fair-june-12-and-13>

TribLocal.com Brava Posted June 2

WMAQ-TV (NBC5) Weekend editor Laura Meechan to use broll 6/13

July 4th Parade

Commissioners coordinated, planned, and acquired entertainment for the parade. The committee members voted on changing the time for the parade, from 11:00 AM to the new time of 10:00 AM. This change in time worked well for the Homewood Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, and the H-F Park District. Members decorated the float on the evening of July 2 and rode on the float in the parade. The float promoted the Block Party program. The group handed out balls, Frisbees, and candy. The parade has become the premier parade in the southland area because of the efforts put into it by the Community Relations Commission. The strong reputation of the parade has placed Homewood in the Chicago Tribune, Southtown Newspaper, radio spots, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Movies in Our Parks | July 10| Irwin Park

In partnership with the Flossmoor Community Relations Commission and the Homewood and Flossmoor Libraries, two movies were scheduled for the summer season. The first movie shown was “Big Hero 6” at Irwin Park. The second movie, “Night at the Museum”, was shown at Flossmoor Park on August 21. The movies are family orientated and promote the Homewood-Flossmoor community. Approximately 400 residents attended the Homewood movie.

National Night Out | Tuesday, August 4| 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Homewood Police Dept co-sponsored this national event along with Target, ADT and the Community Relations Commission. This event gives residents the opportunity to meet the brave men and women that serve and protect the Village of Homewood. National Night Out was designed to generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen the neighborhood spirit, police community partnership, and crime prevention awareness. This year residents were treated with a medic helicopter landing in Irwin Park for photo opportunity. The evening was filled with live entertainment, activities for the kids, food from Homewood eateries, groups available to discuss crime, drug prevention, and the Community Relations Commission promoted the Block Party program.

The event was publicized utilizing all Village communication channels: cable channel, website, e-Newswire, Village Key, and HF Chronicle.

Homewood Giant Block Party | Saturday, August 15| 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Commissioners hosted the Homewood Giant Block Party and the 0th Annual Pooch Parade with great reviews from the residents of Homewood. The event was held on Hickory Road, between Dixie and Martin Avenue. The Village partnered with South Suburban Humane Society in a cross promotion with their event “Pup Crawl” for a third year. The group visited downtown restaurants and bars and ended the “Pup Crawl” at the event.

The day started with the annual Pooch Parade with 13 participants and then transitioned to a Village Block Party. This gave the commissioners an opportunity to promote the Block Party program. To create a “Block Party” atmosphere, the event had inflatables, games for children to play, and live entertainment performed by Super Stoli, Strung Out, and Final Say. The event did have rain showers that delayed the start time of Final Say; however, many fest goers stayed and waited under tents for the rain to pass. We continued with Block Party programming with an ice cream eating contest, sponsored by Dairy Queen, a water balloon toss and a bean bag tournament. Unfortunately, due to the rain the bean bag tournament was cancelled. Awards given for the ice cream eating contest and water balloon toss were gift cards to Dairy Queen. The Community Relations Commission worked with the Beautification Committee in promoting the Scarecrow contest to be held at Fall Fest.

WGN 9 “Around Town” with Ana Belaval was in Homewood on Thursday, August 13 to showcase Homewood’s Pooch Parade, Block Party, and the Homewood Science Center. There were three main interviews and multiple camera teasers.

The event was publicized utilizing all Village communication channels: cable channel, website, e-Newswire, and Village Key. The event received regional promotion through the

HF Chronicle, Southland Star, and the Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. Approximately 1500 visited Ridge Road throughout the day.

Homewood Fall Fest & Chili Cook Off | September 19 | 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Community Relations Commissioners hosted Fall Fest and the Annual Chili Cook-Off, held on Martin Avenue. This event continues to grow and to be a resident favorite. The Community Relations Commission partnered again with the Beautification Committee in holding the 2nd annual Scarecrow contest at Fall Fest. 50 scarecrows were submitted for judging and then were displayed at the event. The scarecrows were displayed throughout downtown Homewood. The 2015 Chili Cook-Off was a success; The Cook-Off included Professional category as well as the Amateurs. The beneficiary for the Cook-Off and pumpkin patch was the Homewood Flossmoor High School Choir. We had 10 amateurs and 4 professionals participate in the Cook-Off. The other amenities of the event consisted of a pumpkin patch, petting zoo, pony rides, magic show, wagon rides, and the showing of the movie Monster University. Approximately 3,500 residents attended the event.

Fall Fest Entertainment and Activity Schedule

12:00 PM - 1:00PM Super Stoli (children's entertainment)
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Mr. D's Magic Show
3:00PM – 6:00 PM Midnight (Classic Rock)
Pumpkin Patch opens
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Horse-drawn wagon rides
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Latin Satin Soul
7:30 PM- 9:30 PM Monsters University (Movie)

The event was promoted through Homewood's Village Key, E-news, Facebook, Twitter, HCTV Channel 4, Village website, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. The event received publicity through the following:

PRINT

Daily Southtown Vickie Snow Jurkowski to include in Fall Festival round up on Sept. 11

Reporter Kelly White wrote post-event piece - 9/20 <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-homewood-fall-fest-st-0921-20150920-story.html>

TV

WGN-TV Julie Smith from UpsaDaisy on Mid-Day show 9/16 Booking Sheet sent 9/11, rehearsed with Julie 9/15
<http://wgntv.com/2015/09/16/style-files-pumpkin-craft-ideas-from-julie-smith-of-upsa-daisy-boutique/>

WEB

ChicagoNow.com Blogger Elena Anthony wrote a post-event piece. 9/20
<http://www.chicagonow.com/fitness-health/2015/09/the-14th-annual-fall-fest-presented-by-the-village-of-homewood-a-place-where-dreams-come-true/>

Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle Eric Crump posted story Sept. 9
<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2015/sep/06/homewood-fall-fest-will-inaugurate-new-downtown-streetscape-music-food-and>

Wrote post-event story

<http://hfchronicle.com/photos/2015/sep/20/scenes-homewood-fall-fest-2015>

KidWinks.com Included in listings -

<http://kidwinks.com/chicagokids/event/homewood-fall-fest.html>

Patch.com Lauren Traut posted on Aug. 27

<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/homewood-fall-fest-returns-sept-19-0>
Metomix Chicago.com Included in Fall Festivals guide: Had own page as well
<http://chicago.metromix.com/stories/4042-chicago-s-2015-fall-festival-guide>

Holiday Lights | December 4 | 6:00 PM to 9:00PM

The event is a new Homewood favorite and the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. The Community Relations Commission assisted with the event with set-up, Homewood promotional mug sales, and trolley rides. The programming consisted of Martin Ave Winter Market, trolley rides, a brass band concert, live reindeer, Christmas Tree sales (sponsored by Foundation 153), ice sculpture demonstration, antique car parade, caroling and a visit by Santa. We extended the event footprint to north Martin Square, where an antique sleigh was placed and a second Santa joined the event at 7:30PM. The event brought 2500 attendees to downtown Homewood for an evening of shopping and festivities.

The event was promoted through Homewood's Village Key, E-news, Facebook, Twitter, HCTV Channel 4, Village website, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau. The event received publicity through the following:

PRINT

Chicago Parent Included in Nov/Dec Going Places edition
Chicago Tribune Web Behrens included in Kid Events on Sunday, Nov. 29
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/parenting/sc-15things-to-do-with-kids-photo-gallery-20151125-photogallery.html>

Daily Southtown Included in Nov. 27 Holiday Roundup story
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-tree-lightings-st-1127-20151124-story.html>

Kelly White interviewed Allisa Opyd for post-event story

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-homewood-holiday-lights-st-1208-20151207-story.html>

TV

WLS-TV Roz Varron considered including b-roll in entertainment round up during the 4 PM news on Dec. 4 - footage was provided but not used.

WEB

Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle Eric Crump posted early story 10/28
<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2015/oct/27/homewood-holiday-lights-festival-feature-shimmering-lights-holiday-shopping-and>

Eric Crump posted story on Window display 11/19
<http://hfchronicle.com/article/2015/nov/19/downtown-homewood-takes-festive-look>
Eric Crump attended and posted video and wrap up story

Metromix Chicago.com Brava posted to site 11/5
<http://chicago.metromix.com/events/mmxchi-holiday-lights-in-homewood-Dec-4-event>

Patch.com Lauren Traut posted story - 11/1
<http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/holiday-lights-festivities-set-ring-season-dec-4-0>

Lauren Traut posted story 12/2
http://patch.com/illinois/homewood-flossmoor/holiday-lights-festivities-set-ring-season-dec-4-0?utm_source=newsletter-daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=business&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=article-topstories

RedTricycle.com Maria Champers posted 11/6
<http://redtri.com/chicago/the-holiday-spirit-is-lit-up-in-homewood/>

TribLocal.com Brava posted story to website 11/16
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/community/chi-ugc-article-family-friendly-holiday-lights-in-homewood-2015-11-18-story.html>

New Year's Celebration |

Commissioners decided to change the title of the event to Noon Year's Eve Day. The members hosted the Noon Year's Eve Day celebration in the Park District Auditorium; approximately 500 attended. The CRC welcomed back the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team for their 3rd performance in Homewood. White Castle donated 400 burgers and Comcast was a sponsor as well.

The event was promoted through Homewood's Village Key, E-news, Facebook, Twitter, HCTV Channel 4, Village website, and Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Daily Southtown reporter Jessi Virtusio interviewed Allisa Opyd for pre-event interview, Ginger Brashinger from the Daily Southtown was at the event for on-site reporting and reporter Mike Parker from Channel 2 news conducted on-site interviews.

The Community Relations Commission has had a busy and successful year. All the events would not be possible without the time, energy and enthusiasm of the members. The Village of Homewood is grateful for their commitment.

Respectfully Submitted By
Allisa Opyd
Community Relations Commission Staff Liaison
Community Events Manager